

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of coating ~~a metal components~~ component by applying a first coating composition to ~~the target~~ a surface of the component as to provide a basecoat and then applying at least one further coating composition to the surface provided with the basecoat, which comprises selecting the first coating composition from aqueous compositions, which comprise:

- i) at least one aqueous polymer dispersion ~~whose~~ comprising at least one addition polymer P, which has a glass transition temperature below 0°C and contains in copolymerized form
 - from 80 to 99.5% by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated, hydrophobic monomer A,
 - from 0.5 to 10% by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated monomer B selected from monocarboxylic acids, dicarboxylic acid and their anhydrides, and if desired
 - from 0 to 10% by weight of one or more ethylenically unsaturated monomers C, different than the monomers A and B, the weight fractions of the monomers A, B and C adding up to 100% by weight,
- ii) at least one water-soluble oxide, hydroxide, salt or complex salt of an at least divalent metal cation.

Claim 2 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least divalent cation is selected from Zn²⁺ and Ca²⁺.

Claim 3 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of carboxyl groups of the monomers B to equivalents of the metal cation in the composition is in the range from 10:1 to 1:10.

Claim 4 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the monomer A is selected from the C₁-C₁₀ alkyl esters of acrylic acid, the C₁-C₁₀ alkyl esters of methacrylic acid, and vinylaromatic compounds.

Claim 5 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the monomer B is selected from acrylic acid and methacrylic acid.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first coating composition, based on its overall weight, contains from 10 to 50% by weight of said at least one addition polymer P.

Claim 7 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first coating composition per 100 parts by weight of addition polymer P contains from 5 to 300 parts by weight of at least one inorganic filler, at least one pigment, or a mixture of at least one inorganic filler and at least one pigment as component iii).

Claim 8 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metal component is a shaped part made of sheet metal.

Claim 9 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the further coating composition is applied to the surface provided with the basecoat before the basecoat has dried.

Claim 10 (original): A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein before the basecoat is dried a particulate material having an average particle size of more than 0.1 mm is applied to the wet basecoat.

Claim 11 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one further coating composition comprises as binder at least one aqueous dispersion of an addition polymer P'.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim [[1]] 11, wherein the addition polymer P' has a glass transition temperature in the range from 10°C to 80°C.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method as claimed in ~~any of~~ claim 1, wherein the first aqueous composition is applied in an amount of from 50 to 500 g/m², calculated as nonvolatile constituents of the composition.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first aqueous composition comprises:

- i) from 20 to 90% by weight of addition polymer P,
- ii) from 0.1 to 5% by weight of metal ions,

- iii) from 2 to 25% by weight of at least one pigment and/or from 10 to 60% by weight of at least one filler, the total amount of pigment + filler not exceeding an overall amount of 75% by weight, and
- iv) from 0.1 to 20% by weight, of customary auxiliaries.

Claim 15 (original): A coated metal component obtained by a method as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 16 (new): A method of coating metal components by applying a first coating composition to a surface of the component as to provide a basecoat and then applying at least one further coating composition to the surface provided with the basecoat, which comprises selecting the first coating composition from aqueous compositions, which comprise:

- i) at least one aqueous polymer dispersion comprising at least one addition polymer P which has a glass transition temperature below 0°C and contains in copolymerized form
 - from 80 to 99.5% by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated, hydrophobic monomer A,
 - from 0.5 to 10% by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated monomer B selected from monocarboxylic acids, dicarboxylic acid and their anhydrides, and if desired
 - from 0 to 10% by weight of one or more ethylenically unsaturated monomers C, different than the monomers A and B, the weight fractions of the monomers A, B and C adding up to 100% by weight,
- and which addition polymer P is prepared in the presence of at least one anionic emulsifier;

ii) at least one water-soluble oxide, hydroxide, salt or complex salt of an at least divalent metal cation.

Claim 17 (new): The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the addition polymer P' has a glass transition temperature in the range from 20°C to 60°C.

Claim 18 (new): The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the basecoat contains at least 5% by weight of water, based on the dry basecoat, before the further coating composition is applied.

Claim 19 (new): The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the basecoat contains at least 10% by weight of water, based on the dry basecoat, before the further coating composition is applied.

Claim 20 (new): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the basecoat contains at least 15% by weight of water, based on the dry basecoat, before the further coating composition is applied.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

The specification has been amended by inserting appropriate headings therein.

Claim 1 has been amended by inserting that component (ii) includes oxides and hydroxides of an at least divalent metal cation, as supported in the specification at page 8, prenumbered lines 6-7, line 21ff, and aqueous polymer dispersions ED1 and ED2, as described in the specification at page 22, prenumbered line 11ff; by replacing the term "the target" with --a--; by changing from plural to single format; and by reciting that the at least one aqueous polymer dispersion --comprises at least one-- addition polymer P, as supported by original Claim 6.

Claim 12 has been amended to depend on Claim 11.

Claim 13 has been amended by deleting superfluous language.

New Claim 16 has been added, corresponding to above-amended Claim 1, but also reciting that the addition polymer P is prepared in the presence of at least one anionic emulsifier, as supported in the specification at page 9, prenumbered line 36ff;

New Claim 17 has been added, as supported in the specification at page 17, prenumbered line 26.

New Claims 18-20 have been added, as supported in the specification at page 15, prenumbered line 11ff.

No new matter has been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-20 are now pending in the application.